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TRANSFORMING CHURCHES, TRANSFORMING LIVES
Southeast Conference
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Project 66-16 Special: The Day the Southeast Conference Was Born

Mike Stroud, director of the **Project 66-16 history initiative**, has written an essay on the event that laid the groundwork for the beginning of the **Southeast Conference of the UCC** on January 1, 1966, an event whose 50th anniversary we commemorate on the last weekend of April. On **April 24, 1965**, delegates from the old Southeast Congregational Christian Convention, an all-Euro-American body, voted by a small margin to allow into its ranks four Evangelical and Reformed churches in Alabama and Tennessee that had previously belonged to an Indiana judicatory and, more importantly, about 20 to 25 African-American congregations that had been affiliated with the old segregated Convention of the South. Taking place as this did some weeks after the March on Selma, this was an extraordinary achievement, given the circumstances, which Stroud lays out in this essay. It is available as a download here.

Also, be sure to download and read minutes from the 1964 (when the measure was first voted down) and 1965 Annual Meetings of the Convention, as well as the enabling resolution for the union.

The essay will be expanded upon and will serve as the anchor for Stroud's forthcoming book on the history of the SEC, tentatively titled *Ye Shall Be Witness Unto Me in the Southland*, scheduled for release around Christmas time (December) 2016.

For more information about the Project, or to make criticisms or suggestions, contact Stroud at **(256) 642-8052** or michaeltstroud@bellsouth.net.

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